

## COVID-19 Update for Occupational Medicine Client Employers

Updated: 3/25/2020 - Replaces: 03/21/2020

As the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve, we want to share the following with client employers:

**Clearance/Return to Work Letters are Not Available.** Neither MultiCare Occupational Medicine or Urgent Care Centers (Indigo, MultiCare and Immediate Clinic brands) issue COVID-19 clearance to work documents. ***Please do not send employees to obtain COVID-19 clearance or return to work documentation.***

COVID-19 testing is not provided on demand and individuals without symptoms do not meet testing criteria. For employees returning to work after a positive test and quarantine period, refer to CDC guidance. Link on page 2.

### **Individuals with Symptoms of Concern can be Evaluated as Follows:**

**MultiCare Coronavirus Online Assessment Tool.** This free tool is available to assist individuals in determining if they should obtain a MultiCare Virtual Care or Urgent Care visit. The tool is available on all MultiCare web links below.



**MultiCare Virtual Care.** We recommend using virtual care before going to a clinic in person. Individuals who meet testing criteria will be referred to a centralized call center to arrange testing at an urgent care center convenient for them. <https://www.multicare.org/virtualcare/>

**MultiCare Indigo Urgent Care.** Patients who cannot utilize Virtual Care and present at a MultiCare Indigo urgent care with symptoms will be evaluated for COVID-19. Those meeting the criteria will be tested at the clinic. <https://www.indigourgentcare.com/>. Test results may take 2 to 7 days.



**Clinic Closures.** Impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak may include closing some clinics. We will do our best to keep employers advised if their home clinic is affected.

### **Evidential Breath Testing (aka BAT-Breath Alcohol Testing) Suspended Temporarily.**

Breath alcohol tests are conducted in a confined space and involve blowing into a test device, risking droplets released into the air. If a confirmation test is required, the collector and donor must remain in the test room for the specified wait time before the second test, increasing infection risk. Suitable personal protective equipment cannot be diverted from essential medical care at this time.

***We still provide urine drug testing.*** See the link to DOT guidance on drug & alcohol testing on page 2.

**NEW: FMCSA Emergency CDL Extension.** For CDL holders whose medical card expires between March 1 & June 30, 2020, their card is valid through June 30, 2020. Link on page 2. ***We will continue to provide DOT recertification exams during this period.***

**Pulmonary Function Testing (PFT–aka spirometry) Suspended Temporarily.** PFT is a common diagnostic tool used in examinations where medical clearance to wear a respirator is required: firefighting, industrial medical surveillance, etc. The test requires vigorous exhalation into the spirometer by the patient, risking droplets released into the air, possibly infecting others. Suitable personal protective equipment cannot be diverted from essential medical care at this time.

**NEW: Respirator Fit Test Limited Availability.** The need to fit test hundreds of people caring for hospital patients has consumed much of our scent supplies used in qualitative fit testing. Check with MultiCare OccMed before sending employees in for this service.

### **Administration Office**

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**Workers Compensation / On the Job Injury Care.** We encourage employees without COVID-19 symptoms to keep their injury care appointments to maintain progress in their care and claim. Patients will be screened for COVID-19 (see below). Those who do not require further screening will be treated.

We understand some individuals have concerns about coming to a medical clinic during this crisis. ***MultiCare is working to deploy virtual workers comp care as permitted by L&I.*** Watch for more news.

### **Visits at MultiCare Occupational Medicine**

***Individuals with symptoms of concern should not come to the clinic.*** Every patient will be verbally screened for COVID-19. This includes occupational medicine clinics and employees / candidates presenting for employer paid services such as drug tests.

People who meet criteria for further screening:

- May be asked to use the process on page 1 to determine if testing is indicated, in which case the service they arrived for will not be completed.
- Or they may be asked to put on a mask and come to an exam room for further screening. If they are a candidate for testing the service they arrived for will not be completed, and they will be referred to a COVID-19 testing site. If testing is not indicated, the service they arrived for will be completed.

**Additional Information:** Below are links to COVID-19 information sites you may find useful.

MultiCare Health System	<a href="https://www.multicare.org/coronavirus/">https://www.multicare.org/coronavirus/</a>
MultiCare Virtual Care	<a href="https://www.multicare.org/virtualcare/">https://www.multicare.org/virtualcare/</a>
MultiCare Urgent Care	<a href="https://www.multicare.org/urgent-care/">https://www.multicare.org/urgent-care/</a> or <a href="https://www.indigourgentcare.com/">https://www.indigourgentcare.com/</a> .
CDC COVID-19 Site	<a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html</a>
CDC COVID-19 Guidance for Employers	<a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html</a>
Washington State Dept of Labor & Industries COVID-19 Resources	<a href="https://www.lni.wa.gov/agency/outreach/novel-coronavirus-outbreak-covid-19-resources">https://www.lni.wa.gov/agency/outreach/novel-coronavirus-outbreak-covid-19-resources</a>
Washington State Dept of Health Workplace & Employer Recommendations	<a href="https://www.doh.wa.gov/Coronavirus/Workplace">https://www.doh.wa.gov/Coronavirus/Workplace</a>
DOT FMCSA Emergency CDL Waivers	<a href="https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/emergency/fmcsa-cdl-waiver-32420">https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/emergency/fmcsa-cdl-waiver-32420</a>
DOT Guidance on Compliance with DOT Drug and Alcohol Testing Regulations (during COVID-19)	<a href="https://www.transportation.gov/odapc/compliance-with-dot-drug-and-alcohol-testing-regulations">https://www.transportation.gov/odapc/compliance-with-dot-drug-and-alcohol-testing-regulations</a>

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this extraordinary time. Please contact us if you have further questions or concerns.

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